

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 DPW-01

SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /090 W

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R 180155Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1797

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKZRTA 15452

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ICRC REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE RE TIMOR

REF: JAKARTA 15374 AND 15321 (NOTAL)

1. AS EXPECTED, FRED ISLER, ICRC REGIONAL DELEGATE IN JAKARTA ON TDY REGARDING PORTUGUESE TIMOR, CALLED ON CHARGE DEC 17 TO REQUEST HIS ADVICE ON FURTHER STEPS ICRC COULD TAKE IN ORDER OBTAIN PERMISSION RETURN TO DILI. HE ALSO ASKED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE US GOVT COULD GIVE. IN RESPONSE CHARGE STATED THAT ICRC AND MR ISLER APPEARED BE TAKING ALL POSSIBLE APPROPRIATE STEPS THROUGH DISPATCH OF MESSAGES TO INDONESIAN OFFICIALS, ATTEMPTING REACH UDT AND OTHER PARTIES THROUGH LATTER, AND MAINTAINING DIRECT CONTACT IN JAKARTA. WITH RESPECT A US EMBASSY ROLE, CHARGE DECLARED THAT DESPITE USG HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TIMOR PROBLEM, THIS APPREARED BE IN-APPROPRIATE AND PROBABLY INEFFECTUAL AT THIS TIME SINCE USG NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVED IN TIMOR SITUATION AND  
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GENERALLY UNINFORMED OF SITUATION INCLUDING THAT OF

RELIEF EFFORTS. IT WAS AGREED THAT MR ISLER WOULD KEEP CHARGE INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND THAT CHARGE WOULD CONSIDER RAISING ISSUE WITH INDONESIANS IF TIMOR PROBLEM RAISED WITH HIM.

2. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION ISLER REITERATED PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DETAILS OF ICRC EXPERIENCE: (1) PREDECESSOR, DR TASTUZ, HAD BEEN REPLACED BY ISLER DUE TO UNTENABLE POSITION REACHED WHEN FORMER ALLEGEDLY SAW 23 PORTUGUESE PRISONERS IN INDONESIA TIMOR; (2) AT TIME ICRC LEFT DILI, THERE WERE 300-400 WOUNDED AND SICK PATIENTS IN OVAL HOSPITAL; (3) ICRC TEAM PRESENTLY WAITING IN DARWIN. ISLER CLAIMED THAT AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED FAIRLY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM MALIK TEN DAYS AGO WITH RESPECT TO RETURN ICRC TO DILI BUT HAD BEEN GIVEN A LATER NEGATIVE RESPONSE, APPARENTLY AFTER FURTHER GOI DISCUSSION.

3. WHILE INSISTING ON APOLITICAL ATTITUDE OF ICRC, ISLER DID STATE HIS BELIEF THAT FRETELIN NOT REPEAT NOT COMMUNIST AND THAT ITS LEADERS WERE NAIVE INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT ANY REAL IDEAS OF WHAT THEY OR TIMOR WANTS OR NEEDS. THEIR BIGGEST MISTAKE, ACCORDING TO ISLER, HAS BEEN NAMING THEIR SO-CALLED COUNTRY A DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC. RIVES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RELIEF (ASSISTANCE)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975JAKART15452  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 JAKARTA 15374  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchantr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by buchantr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ICRC REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE RE TIMOR  
**TAGS:** SREF, EAID, PT, US, ID, ICRC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006